

NEW V OLD

Return of the cult classics

Who says new cars are boring? There's plenty of new cars that borrow from established classics, taking ideas and details off older machines with a cult following. The past month alone has seen a number of new releases, so we got to comparing.

NEW: MCLAREN SPEEDTAIL

The new McLaren Speedtail takes the Brit supercar manufacturer to new heights, with a rumoured top speed 'in excess of 250 MPH'. Only 106 units will be built at a price of £1.75million plus taxes, and is the most powerful and aerodynamically efficient McLaren to date. This 17 feet long hypercar has three abreast seating like the original F1 and the 1036 HP hybrid powertrain takes it from 0-190 MPH in 128 seconds (the P1 takes 16.5). It's all set to break some records.



OLD: MCLAREN F1 LONGTAIL

The original McLaren F1 held the top speed record for production cars for almost a decade and became a household name for its sheer ability and engineering excellence. The Longtail was the competition spec—longer rear haunches and aero additions made the F1 more stable and improved cornering ability. As a factory racer, it enjoyed tremendous success in Le Mans and the like.



NEW: BMW 8-SERIES



The all-new 8-series makes a comeback after two decades, the return tour defined by BMW's need to fill the gap of a big GT car. With Lexus and Mercedes Benz hot on the trail, BMW's product portfolio needed a luxurious GT car—the 8-series fills that void with a 530 HP 4.4 V8, numerous tech and luxury features borrowed from the flagship 7 and exterior styling to match. There's also an inline six motor.

OLD: BMW 850 CSI



The original 8-series became a cult classic thanks to its wedge design, luxury features and a V12 motor that you could have with a traditional manual gearbox. Oh, and pop-up headlights. The big GT even donated its V12 to the McLaren F1 (see above). However, the market wasn't ready and it was a sales flop.

NEW: PORSCHE SPEEDSTER II

The Porsche Speedster II was announced after the German sports car maker announced they'd make a limited run of the Speedster I concept, shown at Geneva last year. With only 1948 units commissioned, the Speedster II celebrates the issuance of the first license awarded to the production of the original Porsche Speedster. The II's red paint symbolises the 1988 Speedster's factory colour.



OLD: PORSCHE SPEEDSTER

The original 1988 Speedster took a dramatic turn away from the wedge-y shapes that other manufacturers were obsessed with and got a curved windscreen and petite windows. The roof was tucked under a giant hump on the back, and the black running boards were made iconic by the wide hips of this most-loved 911 generation.



NEW: SUZUKI JIMNY



The new Suzuki Jimny is already in the market and making waves with reviewers, who are praising it for its smartly squared off looks and off-road ability. Bright colours, funky interior and loads of customising options makes the new Jimny a perfect match for the outdoor-obsessed millennial of today, as they sip their pumpkin-spiced lattes across muddy terrain.

OLD: SUZUKI JIMNY/SAMURAI



A favourite for anyone looking for a sturdy, capable work-horse on the cheap, the original Suzuki Jimnys are still puttering about with 1300cc motors and bare-bones interiors. Maruti made a bunch in their deal with Suzuki, and India's practically flooded with these things. They're used as cop cars, ambulances and who knows what else. There's quite a few in Bangladesh as well.

Shift mag coming your way!

We have a surprise for our readers in the month of November. And since we love ruining surprises, we're going to tell you all about it.

Featuring a bunch of cars (including a hot AMG powered banana) and bikes, get ready to flip through over 12 new features and industry stories, in our first ever magazine. Why? Because we turned 5 this year and we thought we'd treat ourselves to something worthwhile.

More details on distribution and pricing to follow.



COLLECTIBLES



Kyosho 1/43 Lexus/Toyota pair

Kyosho, like the other high-end scale maker Autoart, makes models in nearly all sizes. Typically known for their 1/18 scale as well as a series of official dealer models, Kyosho is well-regarded for exceptional detail in almost all scales, including 1/64. However, 1/43 scale Kyoshos have a level of detail that easily matches those of more established 1/43 makes like IXO, Ebbro and Hot Wheels

Elite.

The pair of Lexus models you see are actually Toyotas—right hand drive domestic models of the 1998 Aristo and F30 generation Celsior. Paint quality on both are exceptional, although the Celsior shows signs of the typical paint rashes that plague Kyosho. The fantastic details continue to the interiors—the Celsior gets leather

creases on seats and door cars (with detailed wood panelling), while the Aristo's fully detailed gauge cluster shows a heat needle and gear selection indicator.

For the quality, the price barely registers—on your desk or display shelf for approximately TK 2500.

WORDS & PHOTOS: SHAER REAZ